

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

**In attendance**

**Rhu and Shandon Community Council**

Jack Rudram	(JR)
Pat Pollok-Morris	(PPM)
Jean Cook	(JC)
Gordon King	(GK)
Olivia Birch	(OB)
Brian Fleming	(BF)
Linda Duncan	(LD)
Jim Duncan	(JD)
Angelina Wassell	(AW)
Maggie McCowan	(MM)
Jayne Burnett	(JB)

**Guests/Visitors**

Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Cllr Robert MacIntyre	(RM)
Cllr Maurice Corry	(MC)
Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Insp Claire Millar	(CM)
Insp Coleen Wyllie	(CW)
Alastair Moore	(AM)
Peter Knox	(PK)
George Wilson	(GW)
Louisa MacBeath	(LM)
Alan MacBeath	(AMc)
Maggie Muir	(MM)
Neil Waldon	(NW)

Topic	Minute	Decision /Action
<b>1 Apologies:</b>	Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Ronald Sandeman, Tim Lamb, Fiona Baker and Andrew Nicholson	
<b>2 Declaration of Interest:</b>	There was a declaration of interest from Jack Rudram for any items in the meeting regarding the Lochside Care Home.	
<b>3 Guest speakers:</b>	<p><b>3a. Inspectors Claire Miller and Coleen Wyllie (Police Scotland).</b></p> <p><b>Insp Miller</b> confirmed the comments made in the report, already posted, provided by PC Crawford. (Appendix 1)</p> <p><b>Insp Wyllie</b> provided a verbal report on the background of the proposed merger of K and L Police Divisions. The purpose of the briefing was to gather information and concerns from local communities as they try to assess the impact of the proposed changes. It was stressed that there were no plans to close the Dumbarton Headquarters. Information has been sent out to Community Councils with regard to the strengthening of resilience by merging K and L divisions. There are no intentions to change policing at local level. The object is to streamline senior management and strengthen support services and specialised staff. This would enable local area commanders to be more autonomous and, with pooled resources, improve response to major incidents.</p> <p>PPM asked about timescales - Study and consultation will continue for the next few weeks.</p> <p>OB asked what would happen to the financial savings on senior salaries. – There were no specifics but expected to be directed towards supporting front line services.</p> <p>A question was asked, what was meant by increased resilience – The wider</p>	

call on specialist teams and officers and some examples were given.

JC asked if someone would be promoted to take charge of specialist teams -

This had not been explored past specialist supervision.

JR asked about the differences between the two existing divisions – L division is a huge area (Argyll, Bute and West Dunbartonshire) with sparse population whereas K division (Renfrewshire and Inverclyde) is a densely populated smaller area.

OB asked where the primary base for the new area would be located – This had not been decided.

GF pointed out that all public bodies are being forced to reduce budgets and that Police Scotland is no exception. GF had serious concerns over the impact of the proposed merger and was currently awaiting replies from Police Scotland to a number of questions he had sent them before submitting a formal response to this proposal. The loss of the Police Office at Garelochhead was done without any consultation with Argyll & Bute councillors or Council officials and was seen as a retrograde step – CM was disappointed that this was the view and pointed out that this was covered by the use of a mobile police office which goes around the peninsula. The difficulty with this is that the service is not where one would expect it to be.

AM asked how much notice would be taken of feedback from the public. – The officers are gathering comments which will be passed back. The public are invited to provide comments directly to CM and CW, email addresses will be put onto R&SCC website.

JR stated that there were 14 divisions across Scotland and enquired how many would be paired. – At the moment it is just K and L divisions and 2 in the North.

MC pointed out that we are a rural community with a large military base with is quite different to other areas and doesn't think that we should be merging the divisions. – Police are aware of the demographic of the area and joint operations and patrols will continue.

JR said that individuals can contribute to the debate or the CC could do so as a group if required. He thanked CM and CW for their presentation.

**3b: Cdr James Leatherby (JL):** Appendix 2 contains the report, already posted, provided by JL before the meeting.

On the **Armed Forces Community Covenant**, MC advised that he thought that there had been some success locally and Decision day was 15th February.

**Post meeting Note:** Four of the seven applications submitted by the Argyll and Bute Committee were awarded funding by the Scottish Regional Board; they were:

- Healthy Outlook at Cardross Primary School: £3,610
- Cove and Kilcreggan Youth Cafe: £30,000
- Helensburgh & Lomond Carers: £6,500
- Youth sailing at Campbeltown NYK( they asked for £30,000)

On HMNB Clyde's **Continued Involvement with the Local Community**, the request made by Rhu Gala had run into some communication problems, but Cdr Riches has given his word that he will try to ensure some representation from the Base at the Rhu Gala.

JL concluded by confirming that the next Clyde Local Liaison Committee, (CLLC) would be held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 1.30 for 2pm in the Clyde

**Post Meeting Note:** It has been confirmed that an invitation for an R&SCC Councillor to attend has been received. and will be accepted

- 4 Minutes of previous meeting** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were considered. Proposed JD, seconded PPM. The minutes were approved.
- 5 Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:**
- 5a. From Item 3c. Rhu Post Office:** Alan is doing well at the post office, the R&SCC website has been updated and a press release has been issued.
- 5b. From Item 5a. Peace Camp Structure:** GF had arranged a meeting with the Chief Executive, Executive Director – Customer Services, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, the Head of Planning & Regulatory Services and ward councillors in December. He made his views clear on the frustrations that ward councillors and the local community face due the regulations covering the confidentiality of this issue. He referred to previous reports to the Council when he had arranged for one of these to be a public document. He also reminded the meeting that a motion that he had submitted had been agreed by the Council although even this was classed as confidential. Those attending the December meeting had been updated on issues relating to Building Control / Planning and the options that were being progressed. He asked officers to produce a draft report on this issues that could be agreed and released for public information. This was agreed by those attending that meeting along with noting the options that officers were taking forward relating to Building Control / Planning issues. Several members of the Community Council voiced their opinions on the lack of progress with the planning issues related to the structure. There is a feeling that the planning regulations are not being applied to the Peace Camp in the same way as they are with any other property, business or domestic. JR and JC to write to Chief Executive and Leader of the Council
- 5c from Item 5c: Bus Stop Near South Gate HMNB Clyde.** RM reported that planning is progressing but the bank will need to be reinforced to support a full sized bus shelter. The siting of the shelter has been agreed.
- 5d From 13b. Post meeting note.** For the record PPM and JC joined the beach clean on December 16<sup>th</sup>
- 6 Planning Matters:**
- 6a. Helensburgh Wind Farm.** R&SCC have written to the developers stating that concerns had not been addressed. The Sect 75 draft agreement was inappropriate as community benefit is not a consideration. JD said that Glasgow Airport had posted an objection which will carry weight. The consultation will continue until March but may not be in time for the March planning committee meeting.
- 6b. LDP.** The changes proposed by the Reporters have been incorporated into the Local Development plan, which has now been agreed by Argyll and Bute Council.
- 6c. Other Planning Matters.** The building at Wilson’s Garage has been constructed with grey tiles rather than slates, PPM congratulated Wilsons on the quality and look of the building. The Planning Officers report on use of grey tiles now recommends approval.

**6d. Lochside Nursing Home.** There are plans to rebuild the Lochside Nursing Home at Gullybridge. The intention is to demolish and rebuild in a modern style. It was noted that there is a lack of information, regarding the height and size of replacement building. It is thought that the number of beds will increase from 36 to 60 and there are further concerns over access. The CC planning sub-group will look into the matter and formulate comments. Action on CC Planning Sub-committee

**7 Local Recurring Issues:** **7a. Bowling Club.** Alan MacBeath outlined his proposals for the Bowling Club. He is exploring the options to create a sporting facility based on tennis that can be used by local people bringing the community together. Other similar centres have been successful and Rhu is currently limited for activities. Consideration is being given to a centre which will house 2 tennis courts with other sports being considered. Alan has previously helped Cardross to improve their existing facilities. There are a number of organisations that are able to support and assist in funding this type of venture which would need to set up as a charity. Although there is a great deal of support for this proposal there are a number of obstacles which will need to be overcome. There is clearly a range of benefits for the community and the head teacher at Rhu Primary has expressed an interest. It was suggested that this could be the subject of a public meeting. The CC broadly support Alan's proposals and PPM offered assistance with the way to approach funding applications.

**7b. Broadband.** Nothing to report

**7c. Japanese Knotweed.** The Report for the Year ending February 2015 (Appendix 3) was outlined by JC. RM confirmed that all reported outbreaks on council land have been sprayed and would be sprayed again in May.

**7d. Control of Vegetation Along the Lochside in Shandon.** RM reported that big trees along the lochside in Shandon will be cut and then sprayed once growth returns. Some money which had been set for this has had to be diverted to repair storm damage in Oban, but the Council will do as much as they can in the next 2-4 weeks.

**7e. Roads and lighting.** A drain has been installed on the pavement in Cumberland Road. This is now taking the water away from the junction with School Road and is a vast improvement. The Council is commended on the result. There is no footpath at the lower end of Pier Road. This poses a danger to pedestrians and should be looked at. There are still problems with roads and lighting and JR urged everyone to report defects on the Council's website. PK reported that an oak tree had blown over and the roots have damaged the road at Manse Brae and Ardenconnel Way. Local residents are to contact Ian Wilkinson of Luss Estates to establish whether the road will be reinstated. In Shandon there are regular problems with surface water in Station Road, Carnban Road and Woodlea Crescent. MC has been asked to determine the ownership of the roads. MC establish road status.

**8 Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:** Nil

**Treasurer's report:** LD briefed the state of accounts: There was nothing in or out and the fund for the seat is now at £350.

Opening Balance	£ 1,415.63
Income	£ 0.00
Expenditure	£ 0.00
Closing Balance	£ 1,415.63
Fund for seat	£ 350.00
Cash in Bank	£ 1,765.63

**10 Correspondence** Correspondence had been circulated as and when it was received. Some items of interest:

**10a:** 'Planning Our Future' questionnaire to be completed by individuals. Hard copies are available from Scotcourt House or you can complete on line; <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/planning-our-future>

**10b:** Annual satisfaction survey, 16 page survey concerning governance and law, for CCs to complete. Community Councillors to forward comments to PPM and JC.

**10c:** Planning Conference Sat 25 April. CCs invited at cost of £10 per person. JC has details

**11 Website and related issues:** JC attended a workshop on Digital Engagement in Community Councils at Napier University. Only 22% of Community Councils have an up to date website. There are uses for Facebook and Twitter and these avenues will be explored further. It was reported by NW that Helensburgh had a new website using Facebook and this will be examined.

**12 Members' Reports:** **12a: JD and PPM** are happy to liaise with Alan MacBeath for potential future use of Bowling Club.

**12b: JD** reported that A&B Council is due to review its priorities for preparing Conservation Area Appraisals in 2015. It is not yet known if A&BC propose to prioritise or fund an appraisal for the Rhu Conservation Area. JD was asked to approach the Council for further information

JD to approach Council

**12c: JB.** There will be a spring fair at the School and they are looking for bicycles for the bike sale.

**12d: MM.** Had reviewed the report on the Health Service and Social Integration, and concludes that there will be greater resilience

**12e: PPM.** The seat for the spit had been delivered but the inscription was incorrect so there will be a delay. The seat is currently at the depot at the top of Sinclair Street.

**12f: FB (by email).** The footpath on Lineside Walk had not been swept recently and is now unusable

RM to pursue

**13 AOB** None

**14 DONM** The next ordinary meeting will take place at 1930 on 8th April 2015 in the Community Hall.

## Appendix 1

### Item 3a: Report by PC Andrew Crawford(AC)

a) From item 3a on the December minute. The road traffic accident at the junction between Hall Road and Shore Road (A819).

Road accidents are coded differently and often are not related to crime. It requires further time to locate the information. I am not in the habit of documenting road accidents or matters that are not crime relevant and do not affect the CC such as domestic incidents.

After subsequent enquiries on this occasion there was a minor bump and a male driver has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal charged with careless driving.

As with all road traffic collisions the information is gathered, the area of the incident is given a grid reference and the information shared with the relevant authorities. This allows us to see if there is a pattern regarding a particular area, ie an accident hot spot.

b) Since the beginning of the year, there are only two notable incidents.

- Laggary Rd, Rhu. Between 01/01 and 03/01 A window of a dwelling house was damaged.
- Manse Rd, Rhu. A theft occurred at a dwelling house between 08/01 and 11/01. It appears entry has been gained and cash stolen. Scenes of crime carried out and enquiries continue.

## Appendix 2

### Item 3c Report by CDR JAMES LEATHERBY (JL)

a) **Japanese Knotweed.** There are no new developments to report.

b) **Wind Farms & Micro-hydro Electric Schemes.** No new developments to report.

c) **HMNB Clyde Single Living and Local Clyde Service Families' Accommodation.** Nothing significant to report (NSTR).

d) **Exercise JOINT WARRIOR 151.** The first major exercise this year is expected to involve around 60 ships; 25 in Faslane with others berthed elsewhere on the Clyde and in Glasgow. The main briefing weekend (10-12 April) will be very busy.

e) **Armed Forces Community Covenant.** In continuation of previous advice, 7 bids were submitted from Argyll & Bute to the Regional Board for the AF Community Covenant Grant scheme. To date their decisions are still awaited.

f) **LIBOR Funding Windfall for the Drumfork Centre in Churchill Square, Helensburgh.** As an example of what can be achieved, the link relating to the £2M grant from the London Interbank Offered Rate fines for malpractice can be found at:  
<http://www.fundraising.co.uk/2015/01/30/4m-bank-fines-donated-navys-charity/>

g) **HMNB Clyde's Continued Involvement with the Local Community.** The Base Executive Officer (Cdr Ian Riches) reports that he is yet to receive any bids from any of the local stakeholders he had approached last summer, but plenty through Service channels. His message is simple, unless bids are received now then it is unlikely that the Base will be able to contribute even to its traditional commitments (including Rhu Gala).

h) **Ardenconnel Field – HMNB Clyde's Aspiration to Transform it into a 3G Artificial Pitch.** No new developments to report.

i) **New Faces in the Base.** Having stated at the last meeting that a period of stability amongst the senior management was now anticipated, the New Year has arrived with the prospect of another change of "Captain, HMS NEPTUNE" by the end of February.

## **Appendix 3**

### **Item 7i Japanese Knotweed: Report for the year ending February 2015**

Rhu and Shandon set up a Knotweed task force in December 2012 and since that time have been monitoring outbreaks of the weed. We have informed the landowners of outbreaks on their land and all have been very cooperative and have already started treatment or will do so in the spring. There are still a few unclaimed outbreaks which we will target in 2015. Our task force will continue to monitor the situation and we encourage all residents to be on the alert for rogue plants in their gardens or near their properties. Up to now, walkers, with or without dogs, have been amongst our best sources of information.

The outbreak which is causing most concern is the one along the Lochside. Here the knotweed and the self seeded scrub trees and bushes are damaging the sloping sea wall. Argyll and Bute have agreed to cut down the larger trees before the sap rises and then will spray the area later to stop re-growth. They also intend to spray the knotweed in May. It will take several years of treatment to eradicate it completely

It is my opinion that the dead knotweed canes should be burnt now. In places they are growing in dense clumps and if they remain, their presence will interfere with the spraying of the new growth. Argyll and Bute are not intending to do this; the officer pointed out, justifiably, that the canes are dead. This is true but their presence will render the spraying less effective as the spray will ricochet off the canes. Their continued presence will also make it more difficult to cut down the smaller trees and bushes which are growing in amongst the knotweed and whose roots, along with the knotweed roots are damaging the sea wall. In the past, residents have helped keep the scrub at bay by cutting it down, but in the past few years, in many parts, they have been unable to do this because of the knotweed.

If we continue to make the progress that we have this past year, it is not an unreasonable hope that Rhu and Shandon will be free of Knotweed before the end of the term of office of the current Community Councillors. Now that would be something to be proud of!